



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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National Park Service News Release

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Mietz Selected as Superintendent

SAN FRANCISCO – Steve Mietz has been named superintendent at Great Basin National Park, located in east-central Nevada near the Utah border. Mietz is currently serving on a detail as Associate Regional Director for Natural Resources at the Midwest Region. He replaces former superintendent Andy Ferguson who retired earlier this year.

“Steve is an experienced manager who has been involved in complex, interagency partnerships at the Missouri National Recreational River,” said Pacific West Regional Director Chris Lehnertz. “He also brings a strong resources management and science background, as well as expertise in water rights, caves, abandoned mine lands, and climate to his work at Great Basin. Most importantly, he loves the Great Basin and noted that becoming superintendent of Great Basin National Park would be a dream come true for him.”

Prior to his detail for the Midwest Region, Mietz has been serving as superintendent of the Missouri National Recreational River since 2010 where he oversees management and operation of two parks and works with partners to strengthen and enhance some of the last remaining wild and scenic portions of the Missouri and Niobrara Rivers. Mietz and his staff have focused upon community outreach through cooperative landowner engagement of flood damaged resources and the development of a mobile ranger station. He developed a joint land protection plan with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service focused upon enhancing recreational opportunities and ecological processes throughout the river corridor.

Mietz began working at Grand Canyon National Park in 1999 as the Geographic Information System (GIS) Coordinator at the Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center, the research arm of the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program administered by the U.S. Geological Survey. He moved to the National Park Service in 2003. Prior to working at Grand Canyon, he worked with the

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Grizzly Bear Recovery Program, the University of Montana's Flathead Lake Biological Station, and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Nation.

Mietz also served as Deputy Chief of Science and Resource Management at Grand Canyon National Park where he helped restore the native fishery, return extirpated species to the Canyon, and establish a second population of the endangered humpback chub in a tributary of the Colorado River while working with the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program.

"Ever since visiting the park for the first time, I felt a sense of connectedness to the mountains, caves and valleys of this area," Mietz said. "I am very excited about working with the staff and our partners to preserve this very special place while enhancing recreational, educational and scientific opportunities."

Mietz earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Cornell University and his Masters from the University of Montana. His personal interests include hiking, camping, and cross-country skiing with his wife, Stephanie, and sons, Jack and Ben. Mietz's duties as superintendent of Great Basin National Park will begin in April.

Great Basin National Park is located in east central Nevada, five miles west of the town of Baker. Great Basin National Park, and the larger region it represents, are diverse in both landforms and living things. Ranging in elevation from 5,000 - 13,000 feet, landscapes include deserts, playas, mountains, rock formations, fossils, springs, caves, creeks, and even a lone glacier. Drastic elevation changes from its valleys to its peaks support an impressive diversity of plant and animal species, from those adapted to the desert to those adapted to forest and alpine environments. To learn more about Great Basin National Park, visit www.nps.gov/grba.

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** Editor's Note: Steve Mietz is available for interviews at (605) 661-6001 **

About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 398 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at www.nps.gov.